

Remarks

Claims 1, 3, 10, 13, 14 and 18 have been amended. Claims 2, 11, 12 and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2 to 10, 13 to 16, and 18 to 21 remain pending in the present application. Entry of these amendments and favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4 to 8, 10 to 12, 14 to 17 and 19 to 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Angelos, U.S. Patent No. 5,881,763. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 as amended recites, in part, that the manifold includes a body with first, second and third fluid passages. The first passage connects a water inlet to a water exit. The second passage connects a drain inlet for connection to a boiling tank with a drain outlet. The third passage is positioned to connect the first and second passages so that water from the boiling tank is mixed with water from the water inlet within the body of the manifold. The second and third passages each define a longitudinal axis and the two longitudinal axes are disposed at a shallow angle with respect to each other.

In the current Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 3 included allowable material. Claim 3 recites that axes of the second and third passage are disposed at an angle of eight degrees with respect to each other. As noted in the Specification at page 12, in the paragraph beginning at line 16, it is desirable that the angle between these axes be inclined at a relatively shallow angle to each other. Claim 1 now recites this limitation. The cited prior art only teaches that the various flow passages be arranged perpendicular to each other. The shallow angle between the two flow passages aids in the creation of a venturi effect in the passages and aids in the removal of water from a boiling tank to which the manifold may be attached. There is no suggestion in the cited prior art that the passages be arranged at any particular angle to produce any particular desired effect on water flowing within the passages.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, is not rendered obvious by the cited prior art and that claim 1 is condition for immediate allowance. Entry of the amendment, reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 3 to 9 depend from and further limit claim 1. For at least the reasons cited above with regard to claim 1, Applicants submit that claims 3 to 9 are not rendered obvious by the cited prior art and that claims 3 to 9 are in condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 as amended recites, in part, that the manifold include a body with a means for creating a venturi effect in the second flow passage to produce a suction in the second flow passage and on the drain inlet port. The means for creating the venturi includes a third flow passage connecting the first flow passage with the second flow passage. The second and third flow passages each define a longitudinal axis, and the longitudinal axes of the second and third flow passages are disposed at a shallow angle with respect to each other.

Similarly with claim 3, the Examiner indicated that claim 13 included allowable material. Claim 13 recites that axes of the second and third passage are disposed at an angle of eight degrees with respect to each other. The discussion above regarding claim 1 is also applicable to claim 10. For at least the reasons cited above with regard to claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 10, as amended, is not rendered obvious by the cited prior art and that claim 10 is in condition for immediate allowance. Entry of the amendment, reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 12 have been cancelled. Claim 13 depends from and further limits claim 10. For at least the reasons cited above with regard to claim 10, Applicants submit that claim 13 is not rendered obvious by the cited prior art and that claim 13 is in condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

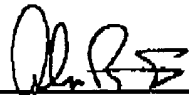
Claim 14 as amended recites, in part, a similar arrangement of second and third flow passages within the manifold as discussed above with regard to claims 1 and 10. Claim 18 was also indicated as including allowable material, similar to claims 3 and 13. The discussion above regarding claim 1 is also applicable to claim 14. For at least the reasons cited above with regard to claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 14, as amended, is not rendered obvious by the cited prior art and that claim 14 is in condition for immediate allowance. Entry of the amendment, reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claim 17 has been cancelled. Claims 15, 16, and 18 to 21 depend from and further limit claim 14. For at least the reasons cited above with regard to claim 14, Applicants submit that claims 15, 16, and 18 to 21 are not rendered obvious by the cited prior art and that claims 15, 16, and 18 to 21 are in condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment and Response to the current Office Action, or if the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would assist the examination of the present application, please contact Applicants' representative at 612.371.5376.

Respectfully submitted,
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